

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 17, 19, 20, and 24-26 are presented for further examination. Claims 17 and 19 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended, and claims 24-26 are new.

In the Office Action mailed September 11, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hutter et al. (of record). Claims 17 and 19 were allowed. Remarks accompanying the rejection state that the term "lined" used by applicant in the claims is interpreted to "cover the inner surface" and that the nitride layer (18) of Hutter et al. does not cover the inner surface of the trench (26) but only the trench isolation layers (38, 40).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis for the rejection and requests reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite each trench having *only a lining of oxide and a filling of conductive material* to form a contact region that is in direct contact with one of the substrate and buried layer. Clearly Hutter et al. does not teach or anticipate such a structure. Thus, applicant submits that claims 1 and 20, and all claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 24 is claim 1 prior to amendment to include additional recitation of the conductive material, buried layer, and substrate doped with a first-type dopant at a first concentration and this is found in the specification on page 8, line 27 through line 2 of page 9 and in original claim 16 as filed. Nowhere does Hutter et al. teach or suggest such a structure. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is allowable.

Claim 25 is claim 20 prior to the foregoing amendment to now recite the first and second-type dopants as discussed above with respect to claim 24. Applicant submits that claim 25 is also allowable.

Claim 26 is allowed claim 17 revised to now include the recitation of the first and second type dopants. Allowance of claim 26 is proper in view of the allowance of claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that all of the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve

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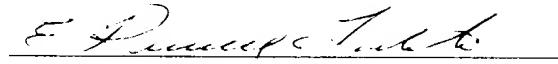
prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

Salvatore Leonardi

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